

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
DON KNABE

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

This Board has accomplished a great deal together and has made significant headway in responding to the very serious management and leadership issues inherent in providing regional services to the largest County in the United States. We have also made progress in uniting the County departments under our unified mission statement and in integrating services to our constituents. However, a change in the County's governance structure is in order if we are to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Our current structure, which requires every decision, large or small, to be vetted through the five-member Board of Supervisors, impedes the speedy resolution of issues. In addition, while five Supervisors, representing geographic districts, make up the governing body of the County, no one individual is vested with responsibility for the County as a whole. In order to provide services and respond to problems in a timely and effective way, the County needs to entrust one person with the executive powers necessary to oversee the day to day operations of County government.

Prior to the initiation of a new recruitment for Chief Administrative Officer, the Board of Supervisors has a unique opportunity to begin the process of establishing a new system of governance for Los Angeles County. In the weeks ahead, the Board,

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ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____

working with the current CAO and County Counsel, should draft a Charter Amendment for the June, 2008 election that will permanently establish a “strong CAO” form of government in Los Angeles County. In the interim, we propose that the Board adopt an ordinance delegating the oversight of County departments to the CAO.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

1. Direct the County Counsel to draft and present an ordinance to the Board for adoption within 30 days, which establishes new oversight procedures and personnel responsibilities to the Chief Administrative Officer as follows:

a. Delegation of the oversight of County Departments. The Chief Administrative Officer is delegated the responsibility for the oversight of all non-elected County departments with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer, the County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller and the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors.

b. Appointment of Department Heads. The CAO is delegated the authority to recruit candidates for all non-elected department heads with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer, the County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller and the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors. After the recruitment process is complete, the CAO will propose one candidate to the Board of Supervisors for approval. If the Board rejects the recommendation, or fails to approve the recommendation within 30 days of submission, the CAO will propose another candidate in the same manner.

c. Discipline of Department Heads. The CAO is delegated the authority to recommend the discipline, up to and including dismissal, of any non-elected department head with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer, the County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller and the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors. In the event

that the CAO determines that a department head should be disciplined, he will recommend such action to the Board in writing, and the Board will act on the recommendation within 30 days.

2. In addition to his other responsibilities as CAO, Mr. Janssen will be responsible for coordinating with the Board of Supervisors and County Counsel the drafting of an amendment to the County Charter to be placed on the June, 2008 ballot that will establish a Chief Executive Officer form of County government.